The Beginner's Guide to Crochet

by Ashley Little, Jessica Hutton, Linda Permann & Andrea Sanchez

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Abbreviations

beg = beginning
bpdc = back post double crochet
ch = chain stitch
ch sp = chain space
cont = continue
dc = double crochet
dec = decrease
dtr = double treble crochet
fpdc = front post double crochet
fpsc = front post single crochet
fptr = front post treble crochet
hdc = half double crochet
inc = increase
lp = loop
mc = main color
pm = place marker
rem = remaining
rep = repeat
rs = right side
rsc = reverse single crochet
sc = single crochet
sc2tog = single crochet two stitches together
sc3tog = single crochet three stitches
together sk = skip
sl = slip
sl st = slip stitch
st = stitch
t-ch = turning chain
tbl = through the back loop
tr = treble crochet
ws = wrong side
yrh = yarn round hook

Symbols

Sometimes you'll see symbols like parentheses and brackets used in a crochet pattern. These symbols are telling you to repeat whatever instructions are within the bracket.

For example, you might see a line in your pattern that reads:
(Sk 2 sc, sc in next 3 sts) 4 times.

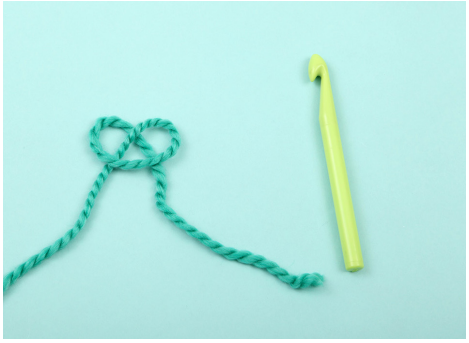
This means you should skip two single crochet, then single crochet in the next three stitches. You should do this four times. Then you can move on to the next part of the pattern.

Special Abbreviations

Often, patterns will have their own special abbreviations. For example, you might be crocheting a sweater that has a special bobble stitch. The pattern will indicate this abbreviation at the beginning (near the gauge information) and provide specific instructions for making the stitch. When you come to that abbreviation in the pattern, you can just refer back to the stitch instructions at the beginning. Easy!

How to
Crochet a Chain

By Linda Permann & Jessica Hutton



STEP 1:

Begin with a slip knot. To start, form a pretzel with the tail end lying underneath the end attached to the ball of yarn.

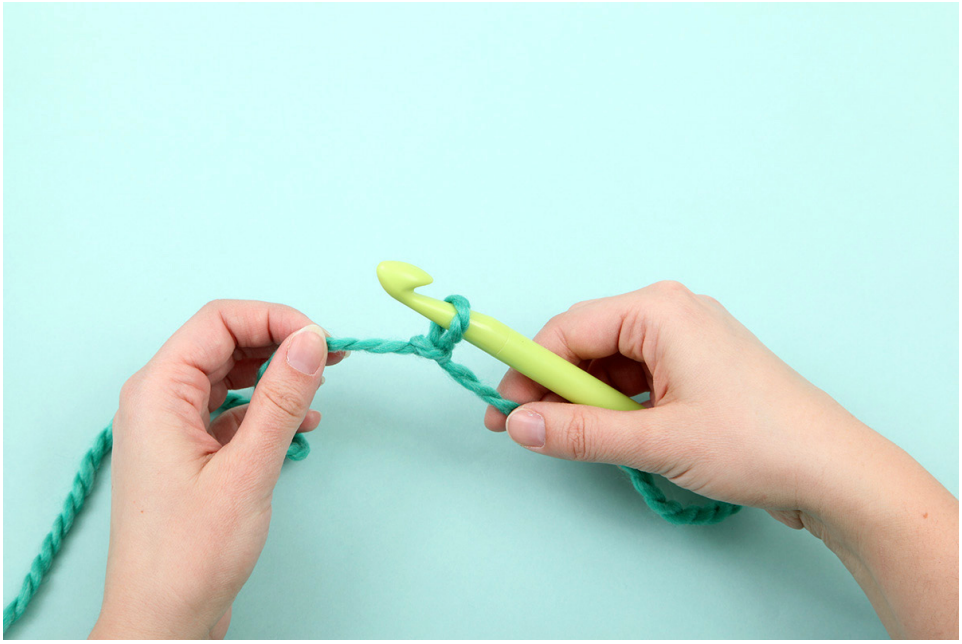
Make sure to slide loops down past the hook throat to the hook shaft (wider part of the hook) for consistent sizing.

STEP 2:

Insert your hook under the tail end of the yarn.

STEP 3:

Pull each end of the slip knot to tighten the loop around your



Be sure the loop is comfortably loose around the shaft of the hook.

Hold your hook with your dominant hand using a knife grip (the same way you would cut a steak).

STEP 4:

Next, let's learn how to hold the yarn. Wrap the yarn up and over your pinkie. I like to achieve this by holding the yarn IN FRONT of my whole hand, placing my pinkie very near the hook and hooking my pinkie up towards me to grab the yarn. The ball end of the yarn should be hanging from the front side of your pinkie.

STEP 5:

Flip your hand around towards the hook to make a loop around your pinkie finger.

STEP 6:

Dip your index finger underneath the yarn strand coming from your hook.

STEP 7:

Turn your hand towards you again. Here's how the yarn should look. You don't want a lot of space (yarn length) between your two hands at this point, just about as much as shown here. A longer strand will be hard to control, so just drop it and start over if you need to.

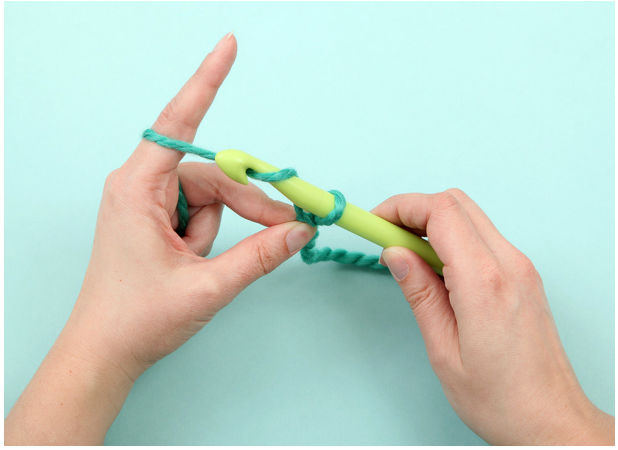
STEP 8:

Adjust your index finger to control the yarn tension for more or less slack. Point your index finger up to keep yarn controlled, bring your finger down to loosen the yarn strand.

Hold the base of the slip knot between your thumb and middle finger for stability. This can be a hard skill to learn because we are so used to pinching with our index finger and thumb. Point your index finger at the sky to keep yourself from wanting to use it.

STEP 9:

Dip your hook under the yarn from the front to catch your yarn. The yarn should be coming around the back and over the top of your hoop; this will keep it from falling off as you pull it through.



STEP 10:

Turn the hook so the head is facing down and won't catch the loop of yarn already on the hook.

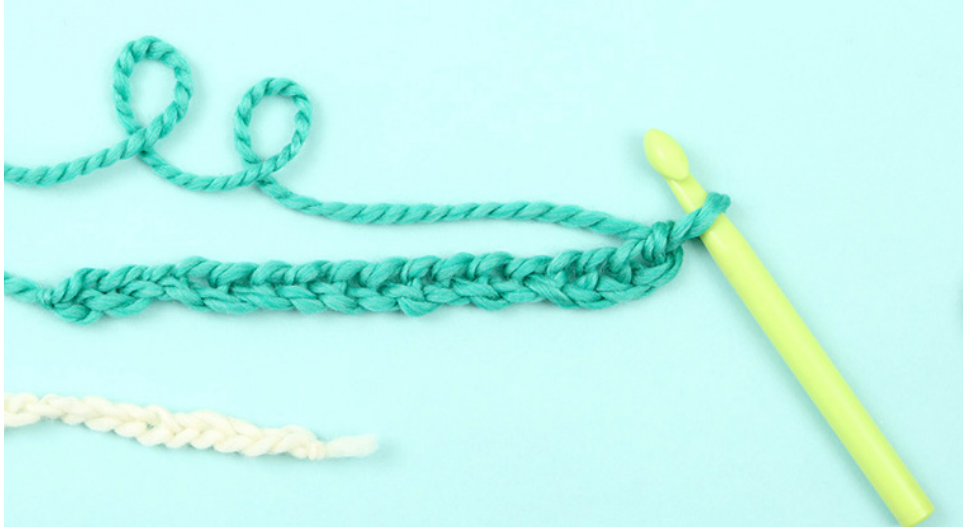
STEP 11:

Draw the yarn (and hook) through the loop already on your hook. This is easiest to do

when the hook is pointing down. Tug on the base of the slip knot with your non-dominant hand to open up the loop if necessary to make it easier to slide the new loop through.

AND, VOILA! Your first chain! Repeat this process, dipping the hook under the yarn to catch a loop and pulling it through the loop on the hook to create more chains.

As your chain gets longer, move your non-dominant thumb and middle finger up so that you are always grasping the bottom of the loop that's on the hook. This will keep the loop nice and open while you slide new loops through it.
If you need to count the chains, look for the V shapes. The loop on your hook never counts as a chain, nor does the slip knot. If you always keep the V's facing you, you'll make a neater chain. Feel the chain, the "bumpy" side should always be on the back.



And, that's how simple it is to crochet a chain. Keep practicing and you'll start to get in the groove and make consistent stitches! If you find your chains to be too tight, remember to keep sliding the loop up to the largest part of the hook after you pull each loop through, and keep a loose grip. It doesn't take any pressure to pull the yarn through. Most importantly, relax and have fun!

From Needles to Hook

A Beginning Crochet Tutorial

By Andrea Sanchez

If you're intimidated by jumping into a new craft like crochet, you totally shouldn't be. You'll be surprised at all the things you can make with just a few basic stitches.

Single Crochet

Single crochet is abbreviated as sc. When you're preparing to work a row of single crochet you will prepare by chaining one. This will give your stitch the height it needs.

Note: for this tutorial, we've already worked a row of sc.

STEP 1:

Insert your hook under both loops of the stitch below (those are the little v's).

STEP 2:

Yarn over and pull up a loop. You will now have two loops on your hook.

STEP 3:

Yarn over and pull through both loops on your hook. You now have made one single crochet and should have only one loop on your hook.

STEP 4:

Repeat this across the

Double Crochet

Double crochet, abbreviated as dc, is a taller stitch than the single crochet. When beginning a double crochet row, you will need to chain 3 before you turn your work.

STEP 1:

Yarn over and then insert your hook through both loops on the stitch below.

STEP 2:

Yarn over and pull up a loop. You will now have three loops on your hook.

STEP 3:

Yarn over and pull through two loops. You should now have two loops on your hook.

STEP 4:

Yarn over and pull through the remaining two loops. You know have only one loop on your hook and have worked one double

STEP 5:

Repeat this across the row.

You can see how the double crochets are about as tall as two rows of single crochets.

Just like with knitting, tension is important to creating even stitches, and this will take some practice. When chaining, hold the working yarn in your left hand and pinch the tail end and any chains made with your thumb and index finger. This helps keep the yarn taut and keeps the chain steady as you work.